



## U.S. Department of Justice

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### NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced that Margarito Diaz-Ortiz and Serafin Paniagua-Garcia were sentenced yesterday in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, Norfolk Division, for offenses related to trafficking in false immigration documents and social security cards on the Eastern Shore of Virginia.

Margarito Diaz-Ortiz, age 37, a Guatemalan national illegally in the United States, was sentenced to serve 84 months of incarceration after his convictions for conspiracy to traffic in false immigration documents, aggravated identity theft, and possession of firearm by a convicted felon. He was also sentenced to serve 2 years of supervised release upon completion of his incarceration. The United States forfeited \$28,475, as well as document-making implements seized from Diaz in connection with these offenses. Diaz entered a plea of guilty to these charges on September 23, 2005.

Serafin Paniagua-Garcia, age 26, a Mexican national illegally in the United States, was sentenced to serve 39 months of incarceration after his convictions for possession of document-making implements and aggravated identity theft. He was also sentenced to serve 2 years of supervised release upon completion of his incarceration. Paniagua entered a plea of guilty to these charges on September 29, 2005.

Jose Marin Martinez-Solis, age 31, a Mexican national illegally in the United States and Perfecto Perez-Perez, age 25, a Guatemalan national illegally in the United States, also entered guilty pleas in connection with these cases and are currently scheduled to be sentenced respectively, on January 23, 2006, and February 9, 2006.

All the defendants entered into plea agreements that call for their removal from the United States upon completion of their sentences.

The investigation was conducted by Department of Homeland Security–Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Virginia State Police and culminated in the execution of three search warrants and the arrests of three defendants on August 2, 2005. Assistant United States Attorneys Michael C. Moore and Joseph E. DePadilla are prosecuting these cases.